



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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GAIL FARBER, Director


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August 18, 2010

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: C-1

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber   
Director of Public Works

**PROJECT ID NO. WRDD000016  
SANTA ANITA DAM AND RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL,  
SANTA ANITA SEDIMENT PLACEMENT SITE SEDIMENT PLACEMENT, AND  
SANTA ANITA DAM AND RESERVOIR RISER MODIFICATION**

On March 30, 2010, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Public Works or her designee to award and execute a contract with a responsible contractor with the lowest responsive bid to perform the work under Project ID No. WRDD000016, with an estimated construction cost between \$12,000,000 and \$18,000,000.

Quest Civil Constructors (Quest) submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$9,483,423, which is below the estimated construction cost range. On May 24, 2010, we met with Quest to discuss their approach and how they planned to construct the project. After the meeting we were confident that Quest is a responsible bidder able to construct the project per the plans and specifications for the submitted bid amount. Based on that conclusion, Public Works awarded the project to Quest on May 27, 2010.

Minco Construction (Minco) submitted a letter to Public Works on June 24, 2010, protesting the award of the construction contract to Quest. In their letter, Minco asserted that the Board's resolution adopted June 1, 2010, prohibits the County from entering into contracts with Arizona headquartered companies and that Quest's bid is unreasonably low and, therefore, Quest is not a responsible bidder.

Public Works' response to the Minco letter dated July 20, 2010, stated that the effect of the Board's resolution was limited by State law, which requires the contract to be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder and that we found Quest to be a responsible bidder who submitted a responsive bid. We also indicated that we intended to move forward with contract execution and commencement of work. Minco has sent us a second letter reiterating their same position set forth in their June 24, 2010, letter.

Each Supervisor  
August 18, 2010  
Page 2

To construct this flood control project on schedule, a Notice to Proceed (NTP) must be issued as soon as possible in order to comply with regulatory permits requirements and to meet construction timelines for material and equipment acquisition and placement. It is our intention to issue the NTP for Quest to start work on this contract on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call John Kelly at (626) 458-4012.

KA:ss

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cc: County Counsel (Talin Halabi)